



SIGNAL online 2005

Archives

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The introductory page for the Southern Ontario Library Service is www.sols.org. From that page, you can move to any other pages created by staff at the Southern Ontario Library Service, as well as to links to resources and professional information.

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1. NEW CONSORTIA PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR DELL COMPUTERS

SOLS negotiates **charitable/consortia purchasing agreements** (CPAs) on behalf of SOLS libraries. CPAs are 'economies of scale' pricing for the purchase or lease of a range of goods and services.

On August 8th, SOLS CEOs and SOLS CPA listserv participants were notified about a new DELL CPA, good to the end of October. It is for the new Optiplex GX520 desktop. The new price is \$975 plus applicable taxes. Monitors are extra. There is a three Year On-Site Next Business Parts & Labour Warranty. Dell has offered free shipping and some tier pricing for large volume clients. More information on the offer is posted at <http://www.sols.org/resource sharing/coolcpa/cpa/computers.htm>

If you have definite requirements and wish to place an order please email ryan_c_lee@dell.ca and include quantity, English or French keyboards, and monitor(s) quantity and model (if applicable). If you have any questions or concerns please email or phone Ryan at 1 800 387-5755 ext. 2211.

Further information on Charitable/Consortia Purchasing Agreements can be found at <http://www.sols.org/resource sharing/coolcpa/cpa/index.htm>. On that Web page, the various CPAs are organized by product and service, as well as by Vendor.

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2. TIMING OF DELIVERY SERVICES SHUTDOWN

In the June issue, we explained that, as part of our effort to achieve our in-year savings target for the current year, we are forced to reduce service availability by laying off all staff for ten days. We explained that office and teleworkers would not work Fridays in July and August and that in the case of the delivery drivers, and therefore the delivery service, the layoff would occur in two five-day blocks.

In early August, we confirmed the timing of the delivery layoff and shutdown. The first shutdown will be Monday, October 3rd to Friday, October 7th inclusive. The second shutdown will be Monday, November 14th to Friday, November 18th inclusive. Please note that SOLS delivery services will operate on the regular schedule on Friday, November 11th, as this is a regular business day for us.

We sincerely regret the inconvenience, but given that we had to make unexpected savings when we were already one quarter into the fiscal year, we have no choice. Your continued support during this challenging period is sincerely appreciated.

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3. INFO UPDATE - VDX STABILITY ISSUES AND PLANS FOR UPGRADE

Please note that a longer version of this message was also sent out on the ILL Administration listserv on August 18th. It seems that the VDX system goes down nearly daily, most often in the afternoon. Once notified, Fretwell-Downing is able to restore the system quickly, however, the situation is under investigation. Please continue to notify HelpDesk immediately if VDX goes down so that we may promptly notify our vendor and other libraries. Within regular work hours, Monday to Friday, you should find the system available again 10-20 minutes later.

A possible reason for the "downtime" could be system load, and we encourage all VDX users to limit the number of selected targets on any given search to 10 tick marks or less. This has always been the recommendation but we have observed that quite a few libraries have every target selected in a long list. INFO can not be moved to a Grid system (multi service providers with load balancer) until we upgrade to the new version of VDX, version 2.7.

In the meantime, we are scheduling the upgrade to VDX version 2.7 with the vendor for the end of October/early November. The typical upgrade implementation schedule is 6-8 weeks. Preparation of configuration requirements and training for SOLS staff on system administration for the new version will begin the first week in September.

Some time in September, we will start regular emails to VDX users to keep you informed at various stages. We will announce refresher training procedures which will involve library staff doing an exercise in a new Version 2.7 TEST system and confirming completion with HelpDesk. This will be designed to reacquaint users with features in the new version that were introduced over a year ago in training sessions and User Group Clinics. A telephone tutorial will be available for those who need a complete refresher.

If you have any questions, please contact HelpDesk at 1-800-387-5765, press 4, or by e-mail to helpdesk@sols.org. You can also fill in an online query form on the HelpDesk section of the SOLS website at <http://www.sols.org/resourcesharing/helpdesk/index.htm>

4. KEMPENFELT CONFERENCE FOR COUNTY/REGIONAL LIBRARY STAFF

Kempfenfelt 2005 will be held September 11 to 15 this year. Staff from county systems will get together for intensive training, sharing of ideas and enjoyment of the Kempfenfelt Centre on Lake Simcoe near Barrie. This year, the focus will be on Canadian resources, and on communication skills. For more information on this unique event, please visit <http://www.sols.org/librarydev/training/kempfenfelt/index.htm>

If students have any questions, concerns, or are simply curious, feel free to contact the Kempfenfelt training co-ordinator, Hélène Golden, Library Development Consultant at 1-877-532-2901 or by e-mail at hgolden@sols.org

5. SOUTHERN ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS PUBLIC LIBRARIES' FALL GATHERING 2005

The dates for the Fall Gathering for southern Ontario's First Nation libraries are September 28 and 29. Further details about location and program will be available early in September and will be posted on the SOLS website. For more information after September 6, contact Patty Lawlor, First Nations Consultant at 1-800-387-5765, ext. 5107 or plawlor@sols.org.

6. LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SOLS provides an opportunity for library staff members to meet and discuss issues of common interest. Committee meetings of area libraries often involve a special clinic on a particular area of interest. This Fall, the clinic will revolve around collection development information. Information about the meetings, including an agenda for each meeting, is posted on the SOLS Web site at <http://www.sols.org/librarydev/networking/librarycommittee/index.htm>.

The dates and locations are as follows:

Tri-County (Hastings-Prince Edward-Northumberland) - Monday, September 26, 2005 at the Frankford branch of the Quinte West Public Library. Meeting from 10am to 12:30 and OPL Guidelines (Services and Resources) Clinic from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Peterborough - Monday, October 3, 2005 at the Havelock branch of the Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Public Library. Meeting from 10am to 12:30 and OPL Guidelines (Services and Resources) Clinic from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Prescott-Russell (Comité des services en français) - Lundi, le 3 octobre, 2005 - Lefavre Branch, Alfred-Plantagenet PL/ Bibl. pub. du canton d'Alfred-Plantagenet - Succ. de Lefavre. Atelier : 9:30h à 1200h Lignes directrices: Services et ressources Réunion: 13h30 à 15h30.

Saugeen - Monday, October 3, 2005 at the Shelburne Public Library. Meeting from 10am to noon and OPL Guidelines (Services and Resources) Clinic from 1pm to 3pm.

Lanark - Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at the Carleton Place Public Library. OPL Guidelines

(Services and Resources) Clinic from 10am to 12:30pm and Meeting from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Simcoe/Muskoka District – Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at the Stayner branch of the Clearview Public Library. Meeting from 10am to noon and OPL Guidelines (Services and Resources) Clinic from 1pm to 3pm.

Renfrew County - Thursday, October 13, 2005 at the Head Clara & Maria Public Library. OPL Guidelines (Services and Resources) Clinic from 10am to 12:30pm and Meeting from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Escarpment – Monday, October 17, 2005 –at the Hagersville branch of the Haldimand County Public Library -. Meeting from 10am to noon and OPL Guidelines (Services and Resources) Clinic from 1pm to 3pm

Leeds and Grenville - Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at the Prescott Public Library. OPL Guidelines (Services and Resources) Clinic from 10am to noon and Meeting from 1pm to 3pm

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7. TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEETINGS - scheduled for October-November 2005

Trustee Councils meet twice a year and all public library boards may send a representative. While all appointed trustee council representatives will receive a print mailing of the agenda, the dates of the upcoming meetings, in chronological order, are as follows. Further information is posted under "Networking Opportunities" at <http://www.sols.org/librarydev/networking/trusteecouncils/index.htm>

Escarpment Trustee Council meeting, Monday, October 24, 2005 from 6pm to 9pm, Welland Public Library

Trustee Council meeting, area 3, Monday, October 24, 2005, from 6pm to 9pm, Hanover Public Library

Trustee Council meeting, area 1, Saturday, October 29, 2005 from 10am to 1pm, Middlesex County Public Library - Dorchester branch

Trustee Council meeting, area 5, Saturday, October 29, 2005 from 10am to 1pm, Whitby Public Library

Trustee Council meeting, area 8, Saturday, October 29, 2005 from 10am to 1pm, Ottawa Public Library - Stittsville branch

Trustee Council meeting, area 4, Saturday, November 5, 2005 from 10am to 1pm, Barrie Public Library

Trustee Council meeting, area 6, Saturday, November 5, 2005 from 10am to 1pm, County of Prince Edward Public Library - Wellington branch

Trustee Council meeting, area 7, Saturday, November 5, 2005 from 10am to a time to be advised, Arnprior Public Library

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8. SOLS TRAINING WORKSHOPS IN FALL 2005 - registration now open

Complete training information is available at <http://www.sols.org/training/workshops/index.html>. This will take you to electronic registration forms and maps for all training.

Workshop No.1 - "Community Outreach: The library and its community"

The library's raison d'être is to provide the best service possible to its community. Yet to be a dynamic, involved service provider it is not enough to open the doors and wait for your community to find you. You must reach out, connect and facilitate a communication process that allows you to be the first place of contact for all community issues. You must be creative and proactive and be a customer-focused organization that encourages partnerships within your community that will work in unison for the greatest mutual benefit.

Workshop Locations and Dates

Whitby Public Library, Tuesday, September 20, 2005, from 1pm to 4pm
Barrie Public Library, Thursday, September 22, 2005, from 1pm to 4pm
Grimsby Public Library – The Gallery, Wednesday, October 26, 2005, from 1pm to 4pm
Woodstock Public Library, Tuesday, November 15, 2005, from 1pm to 4pm

Workshop no. 2 - "Murder in the Stacks"

Are you mystified by mysteries? Are crime books a conundrum to you? "Murder in the Stacks" will provide clues to what this popular genre is all about. The workshop covers the definition of mystery and crime books and what accounts for their popularity; sub-genres and their authors; sources of online, print, and other information for both upcoming and older books; current and anticipated trends; and which new authors are similar to older authors. Learn about the works of North American and British authors. There will also be suggestions of how Crime Writers of Canada, the professional association of Canadian crime and mystery authors, can help you "market" Canadian crime books and their authors.

Workshop Locations and Dates

L.E. Shore Public Library [Thornbury], Tuesday, September 27, 2005 from 1pm to 4pm
Oshawa Public Library, Northview Branch, Thursday, September 29, 2005 from 1pm to 4pm
FULL Ottawa Public Library, Carp Branch, Friday, September 30, 2005 from 10am to 1pm
FULL London Public Library, Masonville Branch, Friday, October 7, 2005 from 1pm to 4pm

Workshop No.3 - "Managing Stress in the workplace: Resiliency skills for you and your staff"

Developing resiliency skills benefits everyone, even managers! Productivity increases, communications are smoother, conflicts are reduced, calories are lost, stress levels fall and teamwork takes off! This session will help you to develop your personal resilience skills and help you create an environment where your staff can more effectively handle working in this age of "permanent white waters" with its ever increasing workload and rate of change.

Workshop Locations and Dates

Ajax Public Library, Main, Tuesday, October 4, 2005 from noon to 4pm
Brampton Public Library, Main, Thursday, October 13, 2005 from noon to 4pm
London Public Library, Masonville Branch, Friday, October 14, 2005 from 9:30am to 1:30pm

Workshop No.4 - "Service to Teens in Public Libraries"

This will be an interactive workshop, covering many aspects of teen services librarianship.

including adolescent development, advisory groups, collections, booktalking, intellectual freedom, programming and behaviour management. In this workshop, among other topics, our presenter will speak to teen services philosophy and staff training, provide a profile of adolescents, and discuss collection development trends and teen programming examples from Toronto and Pickering Public Libraries. This workshop will be of interest to libraries building their teen services or to library staff currently responsible for teen services.

Workshop Locations and Dates

Whitby Public Library, Monday, October 24, 2005 from 10am to 4pm
 Barrie Public Library, Main, Monday, November 7, 2005 from 10am to 4pm
 Ottawa Public Library, Stittsville Branch, Monday, November 21, 2005 from 10am to 4pm
 Huron County Public Library, Wingham Branch, Monday, November 28, 2005 from 10am to 4pm

Workshop No.5 - "Know Where You Are: Understanding your library's current reality by means of a Situational Analysis"

It is important for public libraries to periodically undertake an analysis of their current situation with regards to the development and delivery of library service. While sometimes referred to as a needs assessment, this work of investigating in order to understand the library's current situation is also known as a Situational Analysis. A Situational Analysis results in a collective understanding of the current reality, on the part of Board and staff. This collective understanding is a crucial step in any formal planning process, and is a worthwhile activity in its own right. This workshop will present an approach to conducting a broad-based Situational Analysis that includes gathering and making sense of information on the library's current programs and services, the library's mission and values, the community served by the library, feedback from current library users, and forces from the external environment.

Workshop Locations and Dates

Ramara Township Public Library, Atherley Branch, Thursday, November 10, 2005 from 1pm to 4pm
 Cobourg Public Library, Thursday, November 17, 2005 from 1pm to 4pm
 North Grenville Public Library, Friday, November 18, 2005 from 1pm to 4pm
 St. Catharines Public Library, Tuesday, November 22, 2005 from 1pm to 4pm
 Stratford Public Library, Friday, November 25, 2005 from 1pm to 4pm

Workshop No. 6 - "Opening Doors to Children: Reading, Media and Public Library Use by Children in Six Canadian Cities - A presentation of the research and a discussion of the implications for library services to children"

Our presenter, Ken Setterington, Children and Youth Advocate for Library Services and Opening Doors to Children: Reading, Media and Public Library Use by Children in Six Canadian Cities, will present an overview of the findings from this in-depth study of library services to children. Following the presentation, Ken will conduct a discussion of possible implications for library services. Armed with current research, how do we adapt our current services? What strategies could be developed to enhance class visits, collection development, library websites and library promotion? What can we do to enhance boy's enjoyment of the library? If children come to the library with adults - where should we put our marketing efforts? How do we empower children on a regular basis? These are just a few of the questions that will be discussed.

Workshop Locations and Dates

Thursday, November 10, 2005, 1pm to 4pm, London Public Library - Masonville branch
 Thursday, November 17, 2005, 1pm to 4pm, Barrie Public Library - Main
 Thursday, December 8, 2005, 1pm to 4pm, Clarington Public Library - Bowmanville branch

9. ADDITIONS TO THE WEBSITE

A) On the SOLS Clearinghouse, there is a section called Policy and/or Sample Policies (by Topic). To complement the policies in English, a separate page for sample policies in French has been created and called "Politiques de bibliothèques publiques (par sujet)". You can find this page through the English sample page (there is a français button in the top right) or you can go directly to

<http://www.sols.org/links/clearinghouse/accréditation/samplepolicies/indexfr.htm>. The available French policies are listed first, and the links to the English ones are repeated to offer the full coverage, in one spot.

B) Another topic in the Clearinghouse is "French Services Resources" at <http://www.sols.org/links/clearinghouse/frenchservices/index.htm>. This section includes links to resources on the provision of user services to libraries serving a French language client base. Clearinghouse resources have been especially developed in the areas of ready reference, collection development resources, literature sources and technical services. One addition to this section is a new readers' advisory tool for French materials. This fills a gap in the area of French Readers' Advisory Services. Romans@lire is a database developed by the Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec to help locate novels according to readers' interests, whether they are looking for new titles or are looking for prize winning works. This database includes all novels and novellas written in Québec, as well as all translations issued in Québec since 2000. Just type in a favourite author in the search box to reach a record where the elements of the bibliographic data can be searched. By clicking a subject, a list of entries with the same subject will be provided. The direct address for this database is <http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/sdx/ral/static.xsp?page=presentation>

C) From the "Human Resources Section" of the Clearinghouse at <http://www.sols.org/links/clearinghouse/hrresources/index.htm>, we have added a link to the newly redesigned website for the Education and Safety Association of Ontario (ESAO). The new site is quite easy to navigate. By clicking on the "Products" tab, there is a list of "Downloads" of information in .pdf format. ESAO is now offering training on-line on their E-Learning portal which is accessible from the main ESAO web page. The direct web address for ESAO is <http://www.esao.on.ca/index.htm>

10. ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS 2003 - now available

The Heritage and Libraries Branch of the Ministry of Culture maintains statistics on public libraries in Ontario. These statistics are compiled using data from the Annual Survey of Public Libraries. The Ministry has now posted the data from the 2003 Annual Survey on their website. The direct web address for this page is <http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/culdiv/library/statistics/index.html>. You can also reach this page from the main SOLS web site – under "Highlights – At Large" or through the "Statistics" section of the SOLS Clearinghouse at <http://www.sols.org/links/clearinghouse/administration/index.htm#Statistics>

11. TRILLIUM FOUNDATION GRANTS

On August 9th and again on August 24th, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Ministry of Culture, announced successful grant recipients. The Ontario Trillium Foundation delivers two granting programs, the Community program and the Province-Wide program. Both programs help build healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario by strengthening the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. Priority is

Bibliothèque publique de Hawkesbury - \$13,000 over six months hgolden@sols.org hgolden@sols.org
va/Email/SOLSEmailScript.js"> hgolden@sols.org to improve facilities and to purchase new equipment
that will enhance the local library's ability to effectively process book loans and returns

Deep River Public Library Board - \$11,600 to replace and expand shelving for the library's adult
collection and to purchase a rug specially designed for use by preschoolers in the Storytime area

Nation Municipality Public Library - \$24,000 over one year to enhance the collection of large-print
reading materials and talking books, so that the three library branches can better serve people with limited
reading skills and people who are visually impaired.

Renfrew Public Library - \$30,000 over one year to increase access to the library collection by replacing
unsuitable shelving and purchasing reading area furniture to increase the comfort of patrons.

12. SOLS CEO LISTSERV

SOLS maintains a list of all the e-mail addresses for SOLS CEOs. It is this list that is used to
distribute *Signal*. Several times through the month, you may also receive other messages from
SOLS. This month, the following messages were sent:

- On August 8th, Daryl Novak sent a message about the new CPA for Dell. More
information on this offer is included in this issue of *Signal*.
- On August 10th, Laurey Gillies sent a message about the staff changes at SOLS. She
announced that Terry Sarazen was leaving SOLS as of August 11, 2005. Terry joined a
forerunner of SOLS in 1988 and for the last several years has worked part-time as a
consultant for libraries in Renfrew County. She will be badly missed by her client libraries
and SOLS' colleagues. Terry's position will be filled by Louise Godbout-Legault. Louise
has been with SOLS for many years, beginning as a consultant for libraries in Prescott-
Russell. Most recently she has been a full-time translator for SOLS but this position was
cut to half-time as part of our measures to meet the 15% budget cut from the Ministry of
Culture. Louise will remain with SOLS full-time, half-time as a consultant to Renfrew
libraries and half-time as a translator.
- On August 16th, Laurey Gillies sent a message to report that the feedback from the client
consultations held from July 26 to August 2 had been posted on our website and is
linked from the homepage at www.sols.org.
- *And one that we missed in July.* On July 14th, Laurey Gilles sent a message about initial
staff changes at SOLS. She announced that, as a result of staff reductions in the area of
consulting, specifically around province-wide research, both Peter Abbott and Alan
Gayda have left SOLS. These two people were long-time employees having begun their
careers almost 30 years ago with one of SOLS' predecessor organizations, Central
Ontario Regional Library System. She noted that we are very sorry to see them go and
wish them the very best.

If you did not receive these messages, and would like further information, please contact the
SOLS HelpDesk at 1-800-387-5765, ext. 4, or by e-mail to helpdesk@sols.org

All issues of *SIGNAL* can be viewed online at
<http://www.sols.org/librarydev/publications/Signal/index.htm>. However, if anyone would like to
receive the e-mail version of this newsletter, please send a message to signal@sols.org. You
can reach the editor of *SIGNAL* at: signal@sols.org or by telephone at 1-866-380-9767.

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Ontario Library Service

